

Date: January 9, 2026

To: Child Care Advisory Group, Workforce Solutions East Texas Board

From:  Douglas G. Shryock, Director, Regional Workforce and Economic Development

Subject: January 23, 2026, Meeting

A meeting of the Child Care Advisory Group of the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board has been scheduled for **Friday, January 23, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., at the Tyler Workforce Center, 4100 Troup Highway, Tyler, Texas 75703 and Via Conference Call.** An agenda and supporting materials are attached.

Items for consideration include:

- Update on Texas Workforce Conference presentation by the Texas Workforce Commission regarding Child Care Committees (Advisory Groups);
- Update on Child Care Services;
- Discussion of topics/issues to be addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group in the coming months;
- A. Monitor legislative updates for SB1 and HB599 for potential impact along with an update on changes for Child Care regulations;
- B. Explore advocacy strategies for property tax relief and funding flexibility;
- C. Research Shared Service Alliances and donation opportunities for supplies;
- D. Consider reclassification of consumables as janitorial supplies for funding eligibility;
- E. Research implementation of hygiene closets in the rural areas; and
- F. Preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics.

If any attendee has special requirements due to disabilities, reasonable arrangements will be made, upon request. Please contact the ETCOG office at (903) 218-6400. Telephone inquiries can be made at (800) 735-2989 (TDD) or (800) 735-2988 (Voice).

DGS/GA/kv

Enclosures



## Workforce Solutions East Texas Board

Child Care Advisory Group  
Friday, January 23, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.  
Workforce Solutions East Texas – Tyler Center, Room 4  
4100 Troup Highway  
Tyler, Texas 75703

### And Virtually Via Conference Call

To join the meeting by telephone please call the number below and enter the meeting ID.  
If you do not have a participant ID, just stay on the line and you will be entered into the meeting without one.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/362687493>

Phone +1 (650) 4191505      Meeting ID: 362687493#

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Chair Camille Brown
2. Consider Public Comments: Chair Camille Brown

*Time Limit: 3 Minutes. Interested Parties have an opportunity to address the Board or Committee, which has no obligation to respond in any manner to comments or questions asked of them by the speaker. If multiple speakers wish to address the same topic, a spokesperson will be selected. Any response by a member of the Board is limited by Texas law to a statement of specific factual information, a recitation of existing policy, or a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future WSET Board or Committee meeting.*

3. Consider items from Child Care Advisory Group Members: Chair Camille Brown  
*This agenda item shall allow any member of the Child Care Advisory Group the opportunity to discuss minor, non-action items such as recognitions, attendance at relevant events, upcoming relevant events, etc. that are not listed on this agenda, and which require no action by the Group.*
4. Consider and take appropriate action regarding approval of the minutes of the Child Care Advisory Group meeting on October 17, 2025: Chair Camille Brown (Enclosure #1)
5. Consider and take appropriate action regarding update on Texas Workforce Conference presentation by the Texas Workforce Commission regarding Child Care Committees (Advisory Groups): Doug Shryock (Enclosure #2)
6. Consider and take appropriate action regarding update on Child Care Services: Rhonda McGrath
7. Consider and take appropriate action regarding discussion of topics / issues to be addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group in the coming months: Chair Camille Brown, Doug Shryock and Rhonda McGrath
  - A. Monitor legislative updates for SB1 and HB599 for potential impact along with an update on changes for Child Care regulations (Enclosure #3)
  - B. Explore advocacy strategies for property tax relief and funding flexibility
  - C. Research Shared Service Alliances and donation opportunities for supplies (Enclosure #4)

- D. Consider reclassification of consumables as janitorial supplies for funding eligibility
- E. Research implementation of hygiene closets in the rural areas
- F. Preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics

8. Identification of items to be included on the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting Agenda: Chair Camille Brown
9. Set Date for the next Child Care Advisory Croup Meeting: Chair Camille Brown
10. Adjournment

## Minutes of Meeting

Workforce Solutions East Texas Board  
Child Care Advisory Group  
Friday, October 17, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.  
Workforce Solutions East Texas – Tyler Center, Room 4  
4100 Troup Highway  
Tyler, Texas 75703

### **And Virtually Via Conference Call**

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Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/009527157>

Phone: +1 (650) 4191505      Meeting ID: 009527157#

### **1. Call to Order: Chair Camille Brown**

Chair Camille Brown called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and called on everyone there both in person and virtually to introduce themselves.

The following individuals were present:

Members  
Camille Brown  
Caprice Boren  
Anita Brinkley  
Yashica Conley  
LaQuita Crayton  
Charles Dheil  
DD Hutson  
Rita Portz  
Tecora Smith  
Katrina Torrez  
MJ Wagner

Staff  
Doug Shryock  
Gary Allen  
Kristi Brown  
Dylan Savage  
Kitty Vickers  
  
Guests  
Sandy Anderson, BakerRipley  
Pam Pearson, WSET Board Member  
Latoya Young, Tyler Area Bus. Ed. Council

### **2. Consider Public Comments: Chair Camille Brown**

*Time Limit: 3 Minutes. Interested Parties have an opportunity to address the Board or Committee, which has no obligation to respond in any manner to comments or questions asked of them by the speaker. If multiple speakers wish to address the same topic, a spokesperson will be selected. Any response by a member of the Board is limited by Texas law to a statement of specific factual information, a recitation of existing policy, or a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future WSET Board or Committee meeting.*

There were no Public Comments.

**3. Consider items from Child Care Advisory Group Members: Chair Camille Brown**

*This agenda item shall allow any member of the Child Care Advisory Group the opportunity to discuss minor, non-action items such as recognitions, attendance at relevant events, upcoming relevant events, etc. that are not listed on this agenda, and which require no action by the Group.*

There were no items from the Child Care Advisory Group Members.

**4. Consider and take appropriate action regarding approval of the minutes of the Child Care Advisory Group meeting on July 8, 2025: Chair Camille Brown (Enclosure #1)**

*Caprice Boren moved to approve the minutes of the Child Care Advisory Group meeting on July 8, 2025. The motion was seconded by LaQuita Crayton and passed with no opposition.*

**5. Consider and take appropriate action regarding update on Child Care Services: Rhonda McGrath**

Rita Portz gave an update on Child Care Services. Day care workers with children who need to be placed in day care are considered priority on the wait list and will be moved up to receive childcare help sooner. The federal government has made this a priority on the wait list across the board. The current waitlist is 1,836 families and 3,000 + children. There are funding constraints at serving 6,000 children daily across 14 counties. The initial Job Search Program allows parents for up to 3 months of care while seeking employment. There are two business industry specialists working full-time with BakerRipley, Tonia Crawford and Brandee Overshown. They go to each county and offer training to the directors. They go to the centers to find out what their greatest needs are and put together a business analysis for them. They offer virtual training in each of the counties. Virtual sessions are planned for November/December and offer some help with prospective payments and with the Kinder system of records. These specialists provide one on one training at the request of the individual centers. Through their expertise, they have made a tremendous impact on the day care providers in East Texas. Their work has strengthened the provider capacity and created more access to childcare.

**6. Consider and take appropriate action regarding updates on topics / issues addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group during prior meetings: Chair Camille Brown, MJ Wagner and Doug Shryock**

**A. Property tax relief to centers needs for modification so centers/owners can receive the intended benefit**

Gary Allen provided a handout regarding property tax relief to centers needs for modification so centers/owners can receive the intended benefit. (Noted: No cities or counties in the East Texas Workforce Development Area have adopted Child Care Property Tax Relief.) Challenges include budget constraints.

**B. Education Savings Account (Vouchers) legislation impacting the Child Care business and possibilities for CCS (Rising Star) to implement a 5<sup>th</sup> star rating which would qualify 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds – MJ Wagner**

MJ Wagner discussed Education Savings Account (Vouchers) legislation impacting the Child Care business and possibilities for CCS (Rising Star) to implement a 5<sup>th</sup> star rating which would qualify 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds. TRS mentors support centers but do not control assessments. Caseloads for the mentors have increased from 84 to 216 Child Care Centers. The Texas Education Freedom Accounts may benefit from 3- and 4-star programs. There is currently no plan for a fifth star level in TRS.

**7. Consider and take appropriate action regarding discussion of topics / issues to be addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group in the coming months: Chair Camille Brown, Doug Shryock and Rhonda McGrath**

**A. Impact of the high cost of supplies for Child Care Centers**

The group led by Chair Camille Brown discussed the impact of the high cost of supplies for Child Care Centers.

- Rising costs of consumables (e.g., wipes, paper towels) and programming materials are straining budgets. CCS cannot cover consumables. These items are not reimbursable under current guidelines.
- Suggestions included:
  - Reclassify consumables as janitorial supplies.
  - Receive donations from retailers such as Walmart.
  - Explore shared service alliances for bulk purchasing.
  - Consider hygiene closets to help with supply needs.
  - Search for mother-friendly worksites which allow staff to bring infants to work for the first few months.
  - Encourage business partnerships to adopt on-site childcare and support mothers to bridge childcare gaps.

**B. Briefing on upcoming provider training for each of the 14 counties to address questions regarding prospective payments**

Chair Camille Brown noted briefing on upcoming provider training for each of the 14 counties to address questions regarding prospective payments has already been discussed.

**C. Preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics**

Chair Camille Brown confirmed preliminary discussions for other childcare topics have already been addressed.

**8. Identification of items to be included on the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting Agenda: Chair Camille Brown**

Identification of items to be included on the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting Agenda:

- Monitor legislative updates for SB1 and HB599 for potential impact along with an update on changes for Child Care regulations.
- Explore advocacy strategies for property tax relief and funding flexibility.
- Research Shared Service Alliances and donation opportunities for supplies.
- Consider reclassification of consumables as janitorial supplies for funding eligibility.
- Research implementation of hygiene closets in the rural areas.

**9. Set Date for the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting: Chair Camille Brown**

No set date for the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting was determined. It has previously been noted to take place once every three months.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.



Note: Below is a summary of slides for a presentation at the Texas Workforce Conference

**Local Child Care Committees: Sharing Best Practices to Maximize Stakeholder Engagement**  
**Allison Wilson**  
**TWC Child Care & Early Learning Division**  
**Deputy Director**

Objectives

- Understand the purpose and expectations of local child care committees
- See how these committees connect to workforce board governance and decision-making
- Share ideas for using committees to strengthen provider engagement and local feedback loops
- Identify concrete next steps for improving visibility, communication, and impact

Where Child Care Fits

- ≈145k CCS children served per day
- ≈45k employers with employees receiving CCS
- ≈ 7k CCS providers licensed to serve more than a half million children

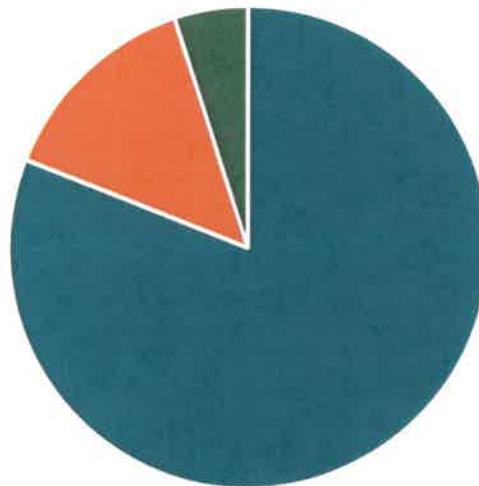
Local Child Care Funding in FY 2026:

\$1.4 billion allocated to Boards

6% (\$86 million) set aside for local child care quality improvement activities

CCS is Boards' largest funding stream

## FY 2026 BOARD ALLOCATIONS



■ Child Care Scholarships 81% ■ Child Care Quality Improvement 14% ■ All Other Allocations 5%

### The Power of Local Voice

Local committees create a structured way to gather stakeholder input

Child care committees can help Boards connect child care → workforce participation → local economy

### Committee Requirements

- Membership – requires at least two providers
- Must meet at least quarterly
- Must update the Board at least twice a year
- Must provide input to the Board on CCS policy changes

### Child Care Committees are meant to:

- Create a two-way communication channel between providers and the board
- Bring local context to funding and program decisions
- Support transparency and trust
- Strengthen the link between child care and workforce priorities

### Key Ingredients of an Effective Committee

Membership – Diverse provider representation, cross-sector partners

Structure – Regular meetings, clear purpose

Communication – Visible to the community (minutes, updates)

Impact – Input visibly reflected in board decisions

### Moving from Compliance to Connection

Review your committee structure and purpose

Ensure diverse provider participation

Share outcomes publicly

Keep the feedback loop alive year-round

### How to make Committees Visible

- Publish committee info:

- Membership

- Cadence of meetings

- Agendas and/or meeting minutes

- How to provide input to the committee

- Share key takeaways in provider newsletters or calls

- Use the committee to vet new quality initiatives or funding priorities – highlight in local Child Care Quality Plan



## 89th Texas Legislature – Laws, and Rules and Regulation Changes

### New Child Care Related Laws

#### Senate Bill 1 - General Appropriations Bill

Included an additional \$100 million for more child care slots ("scholarships"). These scholarships, provided by the Texas Workforce Commission, help eligible parents go to work and school and find high-quality child care. With a statewide waiting list approaching 100,000 the new funding, drawn from unexpended TANF dollars, will help additional families obtain scholarships.

#### Texas Senate Bill 599

Establishes uniform regulations for group day-care homes and family homes across Texas. It prohibits local political subdivisions from imposing health and safety requirements that exceed state standards, ensuring care providers are assessed under consistent criteria.

#### HB 2294

Allows local communities to provide reimbursement rates to child care programs at the state's established reimbursement rate to incentivize child care programs to enroll more eligible families.

#### HB 2310

Develops a multi-agency (TEA, TWC, and HHSC) strategic plan to improve early learning opportunities for young children with disabilities.

#### SB 462

Improves access to child care for child care educators by including them in the priority category for child care scholarships if they are eligible.

SB 1265

Directs the Texas Workforce Commission to prominently publish resources on its website to help employers better support their employees' child care needs. The website link has been published - <https://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/child-care/employer-child-care-solutions>

HB 117

Establishes the Governor's Task Force on Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care to address governance challenges impacting early childhood education in Texas. The task force would be administratively housed within the Texas Education Agency (TEA) but composed of leaders from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the TEA, and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). Additional members would include representatives from public and private pre-K programs, Head Start, nonprofit organizations, and business or community stakeholders with expertise in early childhood development. The task force's core mandate is to identify governance and operational challenges in the state's early childhood system and to propose recommendations for improving efficiency, service delivery, quality of care, and funding utilization.

HB 4903

Establishes a Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative that brings the TWC, HHSC, DFPS, and TEA together to review and streamline state regulations that impact child care programs.

[Quad Agency Child Care Initiative - Texas Workforce Commission](#)

### **Child Care Rule Changes**

#### **TITLE 40. SOCIAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE - PART 20. TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION CHAPTER 809. CHILD CARE SERVICES**

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) adopted amendments to the following sections of Chapter 809, relating to Child Care Services: Subchapter A. General Provisions, §809.1 and §809.2 Subchapter C. Eligibility for Child Care Services, §809.43

The purpose of the amendments to Chapter 809 is to improve the efficiency and delivery of child care services and allow TWC's three-member Commission (Commission) flexibility to implement new service delivery concepts or Commission-approved statewide initiatives or

special projects within Commission-defined parameters. The proposed amendments also clarify that the provisions of Chapter 809 apply to any entity receiving Commission funds or benefits related to child care services.

Additionally, the amendments include child care waiting list priority for children of child care workers. The proposed amendments include the definition of a child care worker as provided in Texas Labor Code, §302.0064(a).

## Child Care Regulation Changes

See below Excerpt from Texas Health and Human Services Website –

### **Legislative Bills Impacting Child Care Operations Effective Sept. 1, August 28, 2025**

The 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, concluded on June 2, 2025. A number of bills were passed that will affect child care operations regulated by Child Care Regulation (CCR).

CCR will post information for bills impacting CCR or the operations CCR regulates on the [HHSC Child Care Minimum Standards webpage](#) [Minimum Standards | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

by Sept. 1, 2025, that includes:

- A summary of law changes.
- CCR's implementation plans.
- Operation requirement changes for law compliance, including information on:
  - How to comply with the law changes.
  - Timeline requirements for new law compliance.

Review the posted documents carefully. Some bills require operations to comply beginning Sept. 1, 2025.

CCR will continue to communicate with you as more decisions are made on how to implement this recent legislation.

Child Day Care Providers will email [Day Care Minimum Standards Comments](#) for questions.

Residential Child Care Operations will email [Residential Child Care Standards Comments](#) for questions.



## Shared Services Alliances

(Excerpt from TWC website - [Shared Services Alliances - Texas Workforce Commission](#) )

### Program Support Initiatives: Shared Services Alliances

Texas child care and early learning programs face both business and educational difficulties. One way programs can save money and work with less effort is through Shared Services Alliances. By teaming up with other programs to share resources and services, programs:

- Make more money
- Lower costs
- Improve quality
- Achieve [Iron Triangle metrics](#)—reaching full enrollment, collecting full fees, and generating revenues that cover the per-child cost

To help meet child care and early learning program needs through a Shared Services Alliance, you can:

- Join as an Alliance member; or
- Create an Alliance and serve as a Lead Entity.

### Join or Create a Shared Services Alliance

Shared Services Alliances help child care programs:

- Make more money
- Spend less
- Improve quality
- Achieve Iron Triangle metrics

Sharing resources allows member organizations to pay less for services. Members can also focus on specific activities that help save money and free up time.

Lead Entities organize each Shared Services Alliance. The Lead Entity:

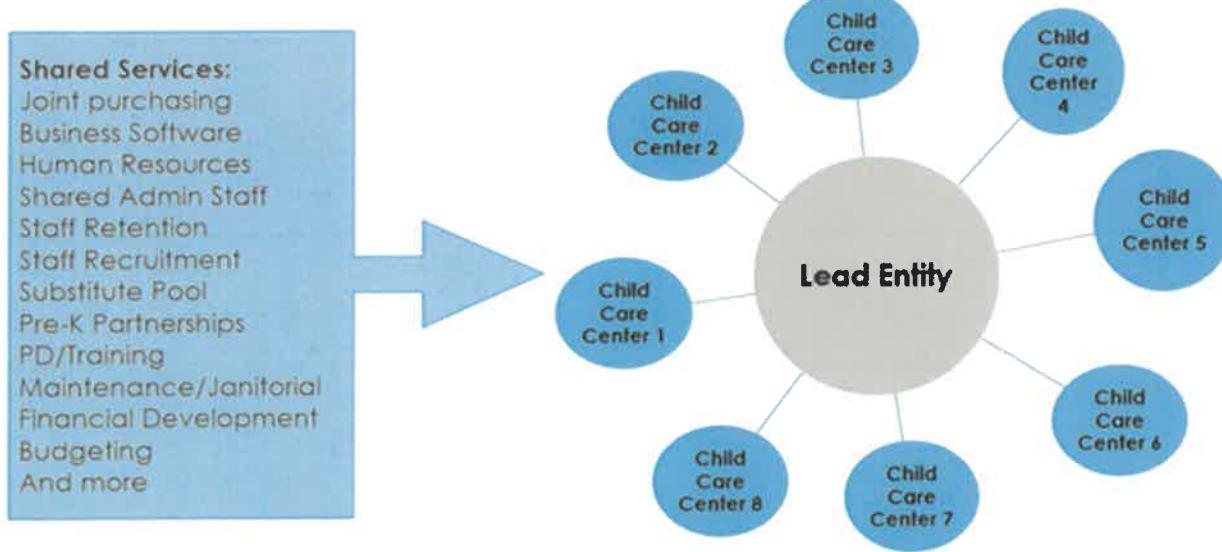
- Coordinates all child care and early learning programs (members).
- Helps the programs identify common needs.

- Helps implement agreed-upon shared services.

The services chosen vary by Alliance. Each Alliance chooses services based on its shared goals and needs. To provide high-quality early childhood education, shared services might focus on:

- Pedagogical (educational) leadership
- Business leadership
- A combination of both

The diagram shows a list of common services that Alliances may select.



#### Strong Alliances:

- Give members access to skilled leadership.
- Improve finances and working conditions for teachers.
- Improve services for families.

Participating in an Alliance helps directors and administrators better support their staff. Alliances help programs save money and free up time.

Members may use the money saved to:

- Increase teacher wages
- Offer stipends
- Provide benefits

Members may also use shared services or freed-up time to provide professional development to child care teachers. When members use the shared resources, teachers can focus their time on teaching instead of administrative work.

The following websites offer information about active Texas Workforce Commission-funded Shared Services Alliances:

- [AVANCE, Inc.](#)
- [Collaborative for Children](#)
- [Pre-K 4 SA](#)
- [Texas Association for the Education of Young Children](#)

The following resources can help you create a Shared Services Alliance:

- [Opportunities Exchange](#) offers free online resources to create a Shared Services Alliances. Resources include a start-up guide, a financial management tool kit, and sample documents.
- [Children at Risk](#) shares trainings, data and research, and many other resources to help Texas children and their families.
- The [PDG B-5 TA Center: Changing the Workforce System](#) slides provide information about national early child care and education workforce issues and describes the different educator pathways.
- Look in your community for opportunities to partner with organizations that offer early childhood training or supports.

## **Are you a community partner looking to start a Shared Services Alliance with other child care and early learning programs in your area?**

Community partners looking to start a Shared Services Alliance with other child care and early learning programs may find high-quality partners in Pre-K Partnership classrooms and Texas Rising Star child care and early learning programs.

- Use the [Texas Child Care Availability Portal](#) to find Two-, Three-, and Four-Star Texas Rising Star-certified programs in your area.
- Visit the [Texas Rising Star](#) website to learn more about the program.
- Visit the [Pre-K Partnership](#) page to learn more about the program.